

State Representative Phyllis Pond House District 85

Legislative Survey



Dear Neighbor,

I would like to begin by saying thank you for allowing me to represent you and all citizens across Allen and Dekalb Counties. I would also like to let you know House legislators have already begun to work on proactive solutions for Indiana's future.

In my newsletter, you will find my legislative survey, which I hope you will take the time to complete so I may have a better understanding of issues important to you. Another item inside my newsletter is our 12-point plan to help continue to bring positive public policy to the state. Some main points of the legislative plan include continuing to bring fiscal integrity to the state by again balancing the state's budget without any gimmickry or dedicated fund transfers, expanding Indiana's economic landscape, and improving educational opportunities for Hoosier students.

It is the goal of House legislators to listen to ideas and concerns that help lead the state in a positive direction. I encourage you to contact me with comments or concerns you may have during this session.

Sincerely,

Phyllis J. Pond

Phyllis Pond

Rep. Pond and other House legislators are on hand to welcome the investment of over \$3.16 billion to Indiana.



How to Contact State Rep. Phyllis Pond

If you have a question regarding state government, there are three ways you can contact Rep. Pond:

Mail

State Rep. Phyllis Pond
200 W. Washington
Room 401
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Telephone

(800) 382-9841

E-mail

H85@in.gov

Fill Out This Survey Online!

Visit my website at
www.in.gov/h85
to complete this survey and send me additional comments.

12 Point Plan for Indiana's Progress

1. **Permanently Eliminate Taxpayer Funded Lifetime Healthcare Benefits** for House Members through legislation to be introduced in the 2007 legislative session. Last year, Republican Leader Brian Bosma eliminated the benefit administratively.
2. **Balance the 2008-09 State Budget** with no general tax increases, accounting gimmicks or dedicated fund transfers to artificially balance Indiana's books.
3. **Eliminate Partisan Gerrymandering** of Indiana's legislative and congressional districts for political gain by the party in control of the Indiana House at the end of each decade.
4. **Provide for Indiana's Energy Needs** with a focus on 'Hoosier Homegrown Energy' by making bio-diesel and ethanol more available to consumers, thus reducing the reliance on imported oil.
5. **Reform the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)** by providing a 30-minute guarantee at the BMV and other measures to improve service and efficiency.
6. **Honor and Support Hoosier Veterans and Active Military** by increasing financial assistance to those who are serving today and their families, and honoring veterans for their service.
7. **Empower Indiana Schools** by providing more resources, more flexibility and more incentives for schools, teachers, parents, and students.
8. **Crack Down on Illegal Immigration** by broadening State Police powers to enforce federal immigration laws and ensuring that state benefits are awarded only to legal Indiana residents.
9. **Expand our Job Creation Success** and promote job growth in the small business sector where 75% of Hoosier jobs are created.
10. **Get Tough on Crime** by requiring violent felons to serve at least



Rep. Ponder works on legislation at her desk on the House floor.

85% of their sentence, protecting children from Internet sexual predators, requiring federal background checks on caregivers of the elderly, and protecting all Hoosiers from identity theft, violent offenders, and meth dealers.

11. **Help Access Affordable Healthcare** with common sense market based solutions like providing tax credits for Worksite Health Programs, a Health Insurance Premium Deduction, and allowing coverage by a parent's policy until the age of 24.
12. **Let Hoosiers Speak on Traditional Marriage** by voting in the 115th General Assembly on SJR7 – the amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman – and placing SJR7 on a referendum ballot for Indiana voters to consider in November of 2008.

Supporting Active and Veteran Hoosier Soldiers

Over the last few months, the Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs has discussed several initiatives for the upcoming legislative session. Members of the legislature worked with the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) and currently support legislation for our Hoosier military.

During the committee meetings, legislation was drafted to increase the Military Family Relief Fund, military tax benefits, and job training for citizens serving in our armed forces. One of the final legislative initiatives proposed by House Republicans included a seven step plan to improve benefits for active and veteran members of the armed forces.

Currently, a \$2,000 military income tax deduction is given to members of the Indiana military. Under the proposed legislation, the current tax deduction would be raised to \$5,000, helping to give increased tax relief to members of the National Guard and the armed forces in Indiana. Similar legislation was proposed to help extend priority job training for members of the National Guard and spouses; recognizing their dedication to service during their military tenure.

As part of the seven point plan to provide assistance to our military men and women, House members have proposed a \$150,000 special death benefit to members of both active and reserve components of the National Guard and armed forces. Also included within the legislation is a one time \$500 activation bonus to members of the National Guard or armed forces for their service during the Persian Gulf War or after September 10, 2001. In addition, veterans' benefits were improved and endorsed by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, including extending the high school diploma program to veterans of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, reimbursement of expenses for Medal of Honor awardees, employment criteria for IDVA and local service officers, tuition reimbursement for children of veterans, and a legislative study of a veterans' affairs trust fund.

The creation of this legislation helps provide Indiana's service men and women the support they deserve for the sacrifices they provide to protect our freedom.